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"Big City" — A Joy To Behold

"BIG CITY" is the title of a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture. The picture, in our opinion, is much, much better than the title. While the characters in "Big City" are in their natural setting, the title might suggest big city stuff, fights, killings, gangsters, from which this picture is entirely free, although there is plenty of movement and action.

M-G-M's "Big City" is a wholesome musical comedy-drama, one which masses and classes, patrons of various ages will enjoy. The story centres around a foundling, a baby girl, who has been left on the basement steps of a house in which resides a Cantor and his mother.

In this story, there is an Irish policeman, a good Catholic, who has not forgotten how to pray at the altar of his Church, a Protestant Welfare Reverend who, with the Cantor, is a neighborhood welfare worker. They adopt the baby girl, and each gives to her, his choice of name, which provides the baby with a string of names reminiscent of that bestowed on a Royal Princess, whose Royal Family has an International royal marital alliance.

The little girl's foster fathers, and her grandma, Lotte Lehman, mother of the Cantor, are good citizens, decent humans interested in serving their respective Faiths, and in expressing the brotherhood of man.

Running through this delightful story are two love-stories, the latter which do not intrude to exclude the fraternal interest, but which blend themselves into a picture which has many very merry moments, some heartbreaks and some heartaches.

"Big City" abounds with music and songs, "Brahm's Lullaby" — "I'm Gonna See A Lot of You" — "Shalom Aleichem" — "Yippee-a-yippee-ey" — jazzy songs, crooney songs and classical lullabies, the latter sung by a world-famous concert artist.

We have had fine pictures which presented problems of race and creed, but M-G-M's "Big City" is quite different, for here there are no racial hates, nor prejudices of creed, here there is a harmony of three Faiths, which form a melodic chord, and unite to make this world a better place in which to live. Here is a plea for parenthood, for childhood, here is a testing through fire of love, a testing of friendship, of the basis of all religions toward co-operative services, human understanding, tolerance, compassion and forgiveness.

As the children and their elders sing, "Shalom Aleichem", or "God Bless America", as the children are led across the big city's streets, by an Irish policeman, the latter, who listens to a cafe singer's crooning song, "What'll I Do?" and answers this $64.00 question by taking her away from the night-life of a big city, to the rhythm of Mendelsohn's "Wedding March", as the children learn to play ball, with the Reverend at the bat, and the Jewish Cantor as pitcher, the Irish policeman as Umpire, we realize how insignificant are the differences of race and creed, and how important are our contacts with little children, who must learn from the cradle, that all people are born equal, that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is the common heritage of all men and their inalienable right.

M-G-M's "Big City" is all entertainment, its moral a sugar-coated pill which audiences will enjoy taking, and which they will offer to their neighbors. —EDITOR.

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277 VICTORIA STREET - TORONTO

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER.

A FAREWELL party was given for Herb Mathers who was transferred from Empire-Universal's Saint John office to the Montreal branch. Men of the film fraternity gathered at the Universal office on Princess Street and presented Herb with a travelling bag, to which presentation Mr. Mathers replied suitably, speaking of the enjoyable time he had spent in the Maritimes. Sam Kunitzky acted as M.C. and Walter Rowley provided the entertainment. Abe Smith was a leading spirit in making arrangements for the affair. Also present were Pat Hogan (Paramount), Reg March (Fox), Harry Cohen and H. McArthur (R-K-O), Lou Michelson (Empire-Universal), Mickey Komar (Warner Bros.), Lew Simons (Columbia), Jack Bellemy, (International), Dave Brager, Mitchael Bernstein and J. Lieberman (B & L Theatres), J. M. Franklin, Mitchael Franklin and Sam Babb (Franklin & Herschorn Co.).

* * *

Arthur Fielding of the Avon Theatre at Bridgewater, N.S., accompanied by his son, Ronald, spent a few days in Saint John last week.

Friends will greatly sympathize with Louis Michelson, who recently lost his father, Abraham Michelson. He passed away at Saint John after a lengthy illness. Mr. Michelson has lived in Saint John for 42 years. Surviving are his son, Louis, a daughter, Ida, and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held from his residence. The Maritime Film Board of Trade sent a floral tribute.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Alfeck, of Halifax, passed through Saint John en route to Toronto. Mr. Alfeck was formerly operator of the Orpheus Theatre at Halifax and has many friends in the Film Industry.

* * *

A Diocesan Rally of Roman Catholic men is being planned for September 19th, in Saint John, when His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto, is expected to be present. A procession will be arranged to the Cathedral for solemn pontifical high mass. Associated Screen News of Canada will send a special staff to the City to film the events which will take place to celebrate this occasion.

Mary Coughlan of the Paramount staff at Saint John spent her holidays at the Narrows, Washademoak River.

* * *

Miss Alice Fairweather addressed a combined meeting of nine of the Women's Institutes at a conference near Saint John. An appeal was made for assistance, books and magazines for the men of the Merchant Navy, who go to the Seamen's Mission in that city. Senator Carine Wilson was the guest speaker at this meeting.

* * *

Lloyd Mason, Capitol, Springhill, N.S., and Bill Densen of the Strand, Sussex, N.B., were visitors to Saint John recently.

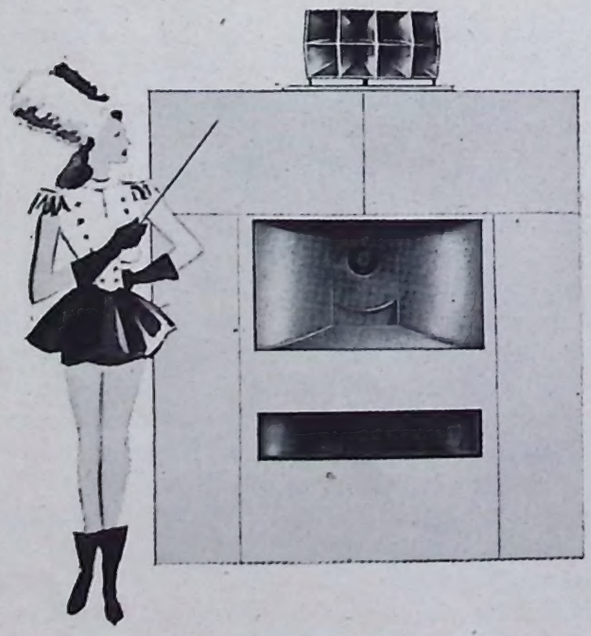
* * *

M. S. Bernstein of the B & L Theatres who has a summer home at Pemdenac, near Saint John, acted as auctioneer at a successful dance sponsored by the Sisterhood of the Shaarei Zedek congregation. Mrs. J. Lieberman donated a picture which helped to raise funds. The proceeds will be given to provide medical supplies for Israel.

* * *

"My Wild Irish Rose" played for six days at the Capitol, Saint John (Harrison Howe, manager). It was a very successful engagement being held over two days.

IN STOCK



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RAY PRESENTS

IN The Digest issue, July 24th, under the caption, "To Be Or Not To Be A Critic", we discussed the differences of opinion expressed in various critics' reviews, in connection with motion pictures, using, as an example, the opposite viewpoints as contained in two reviews on "Hamlet", one in the Motion Picture Herald and the other in the Film Daily.

Our editorial comments, in regard to these reviews, and to critics, were made prior to seeing the screen production of the J. Arthur Rank-Laurence Olivier production of "Hamlet".

At Odeon's Danforth Theatre, Toronto, I was present with other publishers, editors and critics at a preview showing of "Hamlet", and having seen "Hamlet", I feel more convinced about my own analysis of critics' reviews.

The reaction of three or four hundred men and women, who witnessed this screening, should have some significance, in forming an opinion of what the public reaction to "Hamlet" is likely to be, but as I have so frequently said, for publication, the public is the only dependable critic of that which we consider Motion Picture Entertainment.

THOSE, who were present at the screening of "Hamlet", appeared to be quite as much overcome by the grandeur of "Hamlet", as I was. Some expressed themselves audibly, in words as follows, "Magnificent — wonderful — thrilling — inspiring", others sat quietly at the close of the picture, lost for a few moments in thought, finding it necessary, finally, "to pull themselves together", others applauded vigorously.

We have, in our picture-history, had Shakespearean screen productions, some like Sir Alexander Korda's "Henry VIII", Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Romeo and Juliet", J. Arthur Rank's "Henry V". These have not only brought distinction to the Screen, but to their producers, their stars, directors and players, they have in addition to such prestige, the latter, vital manna to the production department, also, brought a notable degree of box office success, vital manna for the distribution channels and for exhibitors.

LAURENCE OLIVIER'S production and his portrayal of "Hamlet" is distinct from all which has been presented, as distinct as is David Selznick's presentation, "Gone With The Wind", from all other pictures which have ever been produced, for as long as we have Motion Pictures, "Gone With The Wind" will be considered the Screen's masterpiece, an epic, a monument to David Selznick's genius; and as long as there are Motion Pictures, Olivier's "Hamlet" will stand as a Screen masterpiece, an epoch in Motion Picture production, a monument to J. Arthur Rank and Laurence Olivier.

Now, indeed, has The Bard been immortalized through a screen production of one of his greatest plays, "Hamlet". Now, indeed, does this period, in Danish history, repeat itself, and will furnish a living experience, a crucible of priceless words of wisdom for our present generation of Princes and Peasants.

"The Time Is Out Of Joint, O Cursed Spite That Ever I Was Born To Set It Right". The members of the United Nations, our rulers and our leaders, today, in Everyman's Country, might, in "The Still Watches Of The Night", audibly sigh and repeat, with "Hamlet", "The Time Is Out Of Joint, O Cursed Spite That Ever I Was Born To Set It Right".

IF I were to do an analysis of "Hamlet", presenting an X-ray portrait of its gallery of characters, all involved in this tragedy of human passions, Hamlet, The Prince of Denmark, Claudius, The King, Ophelia (the gentle Ophelia whose Destiny is madness), the voluptuous and sensuous Queen (Hamlet's mother), Polonius, Chief Counsellor to The King, Horatio, Hamlet's devoted friend, and The Ghost of Hamlet's father, to what heights could I ascend and to what depths could I descend, how long could I muse on these words of Hamlet to Horatio, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy".

But the circumference of a motion picture viewpoint, even of such a motion picture production as "Hamlet", despite the latitude and longitude of the majesty, confines my views to but skirting the circumference, and prevents me from becoming too involved.

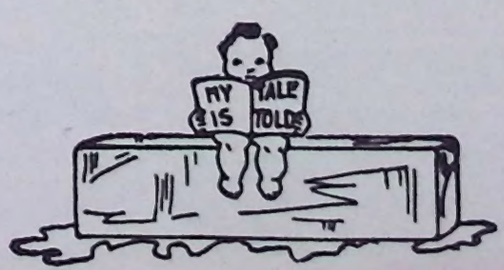
I am, therefore, confronted with two primary questions, "Has Hamlet Entertainment Value? Has This Entertainment Value A Box Office Appeal?" These two questions so bluntly put, are difficult to answer bluntly, particularly for one who has, as I have, been cradled in Shakespearean drama, not only as a reader of Shakespeare, as a spectator at Shakespearean stage plays, but as an actress, who has, in my stage career, appeared in many Shakespearean roles, including Ophelia, in "Hamlet".

PURGING myself of nostalgic longings, memories, assuming the virtues of a Movie Fan, I must be generous in my praise of Olivier's production of "Hamlet", with its superlative settings, properties, costuming, lighting effects, its stage and screencraft, its stars, its players and its direction.

"Hamlet" is something new under the sun of our Motion Picture Domain. Those who see it will not forget its settings, the grandeur of the earth and sky, between which men and women move, in attune, or out of joint with the Elements, expressing their fears, their hates, their hopes, their doubts, their loves, their lusts and passions, all moving toward that "Divinity Which Shapes Our Ends, Rough-hew them howe we will".

BE Hamlet's audience unlettered, be Hamlet's audience steeped in a knowledge of Arts and Letters, both of whom may come to scoff, they shall remain to pray; be Hamlet's audience young, or wrapped in the tangled skein of Bearded Time, this screen production of "Hamlet", will fill them with an awe, will tongue-tie faint praise, cozen them to wax eloquent in admiration.

I salute you, Laurence Olivier, for your gift to The Screen. Hollywood has given the world many Masterpieces and many pictures of rare entertainment quality. Hollywood has, in the sum total of all weighing, served the people well, but only England could have produced Laurence Olivier's "Hamlet", and one such jewel, is worth more than a wilderness of monkeys, Quota Monkeys, be they treed in Hollywood, or in England.



Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

STAGE SHOWS have hit the automobile theatres in Ontario. At the Canadian Drive-In, which is located on the Merritville Highway near St. Catharines, a stage and dance floor has been erected in front of the screen. Rows of seats have been provided near the stage so that patrons can leave their cars in order to have a close-up view of the human performance.

A start was made with "outdoor vaudeville" on Friday and Saturday nights, this part of the program getting under way at 8.15 p.m., before darkness sets in. The screen show is started after nine o'clock when it is dark enough for the picture.

The vaudeville was introduced in conjunction with "The Jolson Story". Previously the Canadian Drive-In had featured a comedy carnival for a Saturday-night program, consisting of 15 comedies.

* * *

Chairman R. H. Saunders of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission is already showing signs of worry over the low level of the streams which flow through the power plants. It may be another way of saying the promised dim-out for the Province will come in September and not October.

* * *

At the sneak preview of "Street With No Name", held at the Tivoli Theatre last Wednesday, Len Bishop, manager, an able M.C., provided a prologue from the stage, in a very humorous and enlightening definition of a "sneak preview" and the reasons why the Tivoli and Eglinton Theatres were presenting one. Audience reaction proved that both the "sneak preview" and the commentary were highly successful.

* *

The latest member of the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Ontario is the Willow Theatre, which the Allens have opened in the Willowdale suburb on North Yonge Street near Toronto.

* * *

Twentieth Century Theatres are busy with the construction of a Toronto downtown theatre at the corner of Yonge Street and Dundas Square, midway between the Famous Players' Imperial and Ben Okun's Biltmore. In addition, N. A. Taylor is going ahead with another theatre on Bloor Streat east, not far from Yonge Street, where it will be opposition to the Uptown, York and Embassy Theatres.

Walter Robertson, the man who is alleged to have held up Esther Newson, a cashier at the Imperial, Toronto, securing $136, was captured as he tried to effect the armed robbery of a sub-post office on Queen Street. A police search revealed that the accused made use of a make-up kit before essaying a crime job.

* * *

After the close of a Saturday night show, the Beam Theatre, Beamsville, had a fire scare when the auditorium became filled with dense smoke. Firemen traced it to burning rags in a storage room. There was practically no damage to the theatre which was opened a year ago.

* * *

The National Fitness Division of the Federal Department of Health and Welfare has decided to promote amateur theatricals as a part of its recreation program for communities across Canada. Michael Meiklejohn, who has spent 18 years in Drama League work, has been appointed director of the movement.

* * *

Frank Babcock, father of Harold Babcock, Regent Theatre, Sturgeon Falls, passed away recently. For many years he was associated with various phases of the entertainment industry. Interment services took place in Brantford.

* * *

More or less as a humid-day stunt for the Toronto City Hall crowd, Mayor Hiram McCallum, members of the city council and various civic officials turned their pockets inside out. There were many curiosities of schoolboy type but it was interesting to note that Assessment Commissioner Alf Gray produced two theatre gift-ticket books.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter

RAY LEWIS - - - Editor and Publisher

BERT H. WILKES - - Associate Editor

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Although unable to swim, manager Ken Johnston of the Odeon Theatre, Guelph, rescued his 13-year-old nephew and an unidentified boy from the Old Mill Pool near the Royal City. They had fallen into deep water from a raft. Johnston jumped into the pond and dragged them to shore.

* * *

The Odeon in Peterboro played the special picture, "Mom and Dad" for one week to excellent business.

* * *

Angelo Stevens, who was with 20th Century Theatres before he went in for the selling of giveaways, has organized the A. Stevens Theatre Promotions and has opened a branch office in Winnipeg in addition to his Ottawa headquarters. He has sold his tableware to a number of theatres in Quebec.

* * *

The Highland Creek section of Scarboro Township is to have a new theatre after its scheduled completion in October. The theatre for the township will have a capacity of 620 seats. It is a unit of National Theatres.

* * *

It looks like the proximity to Canada of visual-broadcasting studios in U.S. border cities is forcing the Canadian Department of Transport and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. to take earlier action on the introduction of television in the Dominion than had been planned. One government source persisted, however, in the belief that Canada would not have television for another 18 months.

* * *

The National Film Society of Canada, established in 1935, has released a new catalogue which lists approximately 1,000 new films in addition to the 2,000 releases which had been offered in the previous booking schedule.

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Fox To Produce 30 "A" Films Skouras Tells Toronto Meet

Plans of Twentieth Century-Fox to deliver motion picture entertainment on a global scale unprecedented in film history during the coming year were unfolded Thursday, July 22, by President Spyros P. Skouras at a convention of the company's sales organization in Toronto.

Heading a contingent of home office executives, President Skouras came to Toronto to supplement the release program announced by Andy W. Smith, Jr., general sales manager, with an explanation of the new policy.

Company's Position Strengthened

This policy strengthens the company's position by affording fluidity of production throughout the world and takes advantage of the international situation with respect to blocked funds in foreign countries and therefore involves production in some of these countries where stories fit local atmosphere.

It was the first time company officials had crossed an international boundary to present the annual feature schedule announcement. The occasion also was signalized by the company president's salute that cemented Canadian-American relations in the fact that two new productions, "Canadian Pacific" and "Royal Canadian Mounted Police", are in preparation for filming in Dominion locales, following the example set by "The Iron Curtain".

To Produce 30 "A" Pictures

The company not only listed thirty "A" pictures to be made under the supervision of Joseph M. Schenck, executive production head of the studio and Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production, but described world-wide production and distribution activity denoting aggressive confidence in the product and its market. The "A" product surpasses in number and quality any previous output of the company, and will be 75% completed by the end of August, it was said.

ARTHUR SILVERSTONE

Plan Global Production

Through the Canadian meeting, Mr. Skouras also let it be known that the realistic type of pictures in which the company so long has pioneered is included in the global production policy. Examples cited of the on-the-spot locale policy now extended to other countries are "The Prince of Foxes", soon to go before the cameras in Italy; "The Affairs of Adelaide", which went into production in England; "I Was A Male War Bride", starring Cary Grant, to be made in Germany, France, England; "The Black Rose", by Thomas Costain, and "Lydia Bailey" by Kenneth Roberts, both to be produced in England. Darryl F. Zanuck is currently in Europe settling plans for these pictures and studying the entire European situation.

These and other films entail in some degree the realistic treatment so successfully employed in a long line of films beginning with "The House on 92nd Street".

Discussing the global operations, Mr. Skouras stated that complete units of directors, stars and technicians will be sent to locations in Europe, Canada and sections of the United States to film pictures whose themes require special authenticated backgrounds and locales. Italy, England, the European continent, Canada and various locales in the United States will see studio units in work during the coming months in addition to the complete facilities of the Hollywood studio.

Studio At Peak Operation

The films listed carry the 20th Century-Fox distribution schedule to July, 1949, with the studio continuing at peak operation to deliver currently announced and future productions.

President Skouras hailed the impressive release program as a demonstration of the confident outlook of the company.

"Our product, unexcelled in the company's annals, speaks for itself as to our optimism in the future of our industry and of our company", Mr. Skouras said.

At the same time, General Sales Manager Andy Smith outlined in detail the production list for the coming twelve-month period, while Charles Schlaifer, Director of Advertising, Publicity and Exploitation, described a completed promotion program of advertising, publicity and exploitation.

The thirty "A" pictures are as follows:

SPYROS SKOURAS

Completed And Delivered

"The Walls of Jericho", based on the dramatic best-seller by Paul Wellman, and starring Cornel Wilde, Linda Darnell, Anne Baxter and Kirk Douglas. Screenplay written and produced by Lamar Trotti. Directed by John M. Stahl.

"That Lady In Ermine", a satiric musical in Technicolor, co-starring Betty Grable and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Produced and directed by Ernest Lubitsch.

"Escape", from the suspenseful drama by John Galsworthy, starring Rex Harrison and Peggy Cummins. Produced by William Perlberg and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

"Forever Amber", in Technicolor, from the Kathleen Winsor best-seller, starring Linda Darnell, Cornel Wilde, Richard Greene and George Sanders. Produced by William Perlberg and directed by Otto Preminger. This will be placed in general release for the first time.

"The Reign of Terror", a stirring drama in the filmed-from-life series, starring Victor Mature and Richard Conte. Based on the Henry Helseth novel. Produced by Sol C. Siegel and directed by Robert Siodmak.

Seven In Editing Stages

"The Luck of the Irish", based on the novel "There Was A Little Man", by Guy and Constance Jones. A gay comedy-romance, co-starring Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter. Produced by Fred Kohlmer and directed by Henry Koster.

"Apartment for Peggy", in Technicolor, based on a Faith Baldwin story and starring Jeanne Crain, William Holden and Edmund Gwenn. Produced by William Perlberg and directed by George Seaton, the team which produced the memorable "Miracle on 34th Street".

(*Continued on Page 9*)

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

THEATRE managers in this city will have to re-arrange their film bookings in order to cash in on the several million dollars, in Government payrolls, when the twice-a-month pay for Civil Servants becomes effective next September. The new pay schedule, long sought by Civil Service organizations was recommended by the National Joint Council on the Public Service. Although not officially announced by Finance Minister Abbott, it was learned that it had been approved. The new system will mean that more than 27,240 cheques will be cashed . . . and spent . . . in Ottawa at the first and middle of each month to the amount of about $2,177,103 each payday. The twice-a-month salary cheque will mean a doubling of the payday line-ups in local banks, and of course, at the movie theatre box office. Incidentally, practically all Civil Service departments, with a personnel of more than 100,000 permanent and temporary employees, are now on a five-day week basis for the Summer months, at least, and the current slight falling off in movie attendance is attributed, by theatre observers, to the long Friday - to - Monday week-ends which enable many Civil Servants to leave town for lake and mountain resorts.

* * *

Connaught Jockey Club will open a fourteen-day meet on Saturday, July 31st, with $60,000 in stakes and purses. Races will be run off in the early afternoon on Saturdays and Holidays, with twilight fields getting away at 5 p.m. during the week days.

* * *

James FitzPatrick of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios was a visitor in Ottawa previous to leaving on a tour through Ontario and Quebec to film a travelogue of the two provinces. Mr. FitzPatrick is working in co-operation with Leo Dolan, director of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau. Producer of the popular series of FitzPatrick Traveltalks, he has already made several films on Canada, in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. His twelve-minute technicolor productions, which are designed to stimulate the Canadian tourist trade will be ready for release at the end of this year and will be shown in approximately 15,000 theatres.

* * *

Frank Gallop, manager of the Glebe (Odeon) Theatre, in the South End, had a nice three days with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's revival of "The Great Waltz".

The novelty of driving to the movies . . . and staying in their cars to watch the show . . . proved a tremendous drawing card for Ottawa area motorists when the Drive-In Theatre first automobile theatre in the Ottawa region, opened its gates the other night. Located on Highway No. 17, several miles from the city limits on the Britannia crossroads, the Drive-In started letting customers in sometime before sunset, the show began as soon as darkness fell. When starting time came, the 15-acre area was filled with over 1,000 cars, while several hundred "walk-in" patrons occupied chairs in front of the huge screen.

New to most motorists, the theatre consists of a large field, circular in shape and enclosed by a high fence. The motorist enters, turns off his lights and drives to a series of semi-circular ramps in the parking area. Then he swings sharply until the front of his car is facing the screen. When in position, the front wheels of the car are up on a slight hump that divides each ramp from the next. The car is thus tipped up slightly, enabling the occupants to see the show easily. Beside the front door of each car is a post to which a portable loudspeaker is attached by a long cord. The speaker is hooked to the car window-edge by an attendant, and the show goes on.

H. J. Ochs, managing director of the Ottawa Drive-In Theatre Limited, was present at the opening. Mr. Ochs said such theatres cater particularly to the family trade and are of tremendous appeal to "shut-ins". As yet, there are only 10 such theatres in Canada, five of them operated by Mr. Ochs' company. His local manager is G. F. White.

* * *

The Gatineau Club which operates a floor show nightly at their spot on the Aylmer Road, is advertising "Paddy Cliff, Singing and Comedy M.C., Star of Radio, Movie and Stage". Ever hear of him?

* * *

Employees of the National Film Film Board held their first annual picnic the other day, at Britannia Bay, with some 300 persons, including 100 children, in attendance. Mrs. Pat Poulton was designated Miss NFB 1890, and Miss Yvette Major was crowned Miss NFB for 1948. Commissioner Ross McLean was present throughout the day and presented prizes to the winners of the various popularity voting and field day events.

The National Film Board Recreation Association held its annual Golf Field Day at the Glenlea Golf Club last week. The event took the form of a mixed two-ball foursome and the turnout, which included Film Commissioner Ross McLean, was the largest since the annual competitions started a few years ago.

* * *

In the first case of its kind in Canada, Antoinette Pilon, of Ottawa, was convicted by the local police magistrate on a charge of buying a lottery ticket. The charge was laid in connection with the "Foto-Nite" contests held at the Francais Theatre. A nominal fine of $10 and costs was assessed. Byron Howard, K.C., who defended Miss Pilon and the theatre, which is operated by Donat Paquin, of Hull and Ottawa, gave notice of appeal. The "Foto-Nite" contests are held in various theatres across Canada, and if the conviction is upheld by Court of Appeal, anyone who buys a ticket at the contest is liable to prosecution.

* * *

Hugh Parker's Stage Society group closed their Summer season of repertoire at LaSalle Academy Theatre on Saturday, July 31st. Mr. Parker said, during his curtain call, that the company would open again early in September. The final presentation was "Arsenic and Old Lace", and played to a good week, despite the terrific heat wave.

DRIVE-INS DON'T HURT THEATRES CHAIN OPERATOR STATES

"Drive-Ins don't hurt the theatres", was the argument which was advanced by Herb Ochs of Toronto and Cleveland, after he had opened his third unit in Ontario. In his opinion, the automobile amusement centres draw crowds which ordinarily do not attend the regular theatres during the hot weather.

Incidentally, Gordon White of Ottawa, was appointed manager of Ochs' Drive-In when it opened recently in the Ottawa Valley at Britannia.

THEATRE MANAGER'S WIFE DIES

The death has occurred of Mrs. Stanley G. Williams, 58, wife of the manager of the Capitol Theatre, Cornwall, after an illness of seven months. She was a sister of Clarence G. Markell, president of the theatre company which is affiliated with Famous Players, and a daughter of the late James Whitham, who founded the Cornwall theatre company.

USE DIGEST WANT ADS. THEY BRING RESULTS.

Paramount Short On Canada Educates American Theatre-Goers

Paramount is adding something new to the moviegoing scene this summer with a short-subject which is believed to establish something of a precedent in the field. "Neighbor to the North", a hands-across-the-border treatment of Canada, is a film which is part travelogue, part documentary and part editorial.

This three-angled approach to the Canadian scene has been brought off by Producer Albert J. Richard and Director Gene Martel in the hope of underscoring one of the dominant economic facts of the post-war era, that Canada is in desperate need of dollars.

The burden of the story is carried by actors Ralph Forbes and Walter Abel, as a Canadian and an American rolling along together on an automobile trip into Canada's fishing country, and in the course of the film the point is made that every American has a stake in the destiny of his "cousins" across the border.

In order to show that a more complete understanding of the Dominion's situation is essential to the maintenance of friendly ties, the film dispels the average American's conception of Canada as simply the home of the Dionne Quintuplets, or the land where the Mounties are always getting their man.

Canadians are more than that, of course. The film points out that they are very much like Americans, speaking the same language, and having the same ideas and ideals in most respects. Their great disadvantage is their numbers. Occupying the broadest single territory in this hemisphere, far larger than the United States, they have a bare 12 million people with which to manage this tremendous area, about as many as are crammed into the state of New York alone.

The camera tells the story of the great Canadian wilderness, the last on this continent, and many other resources natural and man-made, which help to keep the world waiting in line for Canadian goods. But the world, too, lacks the money to buy. The devastated countries of Europe are no longer able to pay their Canadian bills in dollars.

Canada is enjoying boom times right now, but the country suffers from shortages, made up in better times by importing goods from United States. Long our greatest customer, Canada has been accustomed to pay for purchases here with dollars realized by selling to Europe. Such dollars are no longer forthcoming. Canadian credits to European countries in need (for which only I.O.U.'s have been received) total 2 billion dollars. A country our size would have to point to a 33 billion credit to equal such a gesture.

In addition, Canadian citizens had gone on a buying spree with the coming of peace, with a tidal wave of dollars flowing out of the country. As a result, Canada was forced to institute temporary controls severely limiting purchases in the United States. Our own government, recognizing the danger to Canada's economy, assisted by putting an embargo on certain goods.

The Dominion firmly intends to build up her reserves so that she may regain her earlier standing at U.S. counters. It hopes to do this by encouraging American industry to purchase from Canada, wherever possible, the lumber, the pulp and paper, the metals and everything else which our "neighbor to the north" has to sell in abundance.

For the average American, even a vacation trip through the scenic Canadian provinces is a certain means of adding impetus to the dollar flow which will restore Canada to her former position of supreme customer as well as friend.

Films, Photos, Displays Boost Canada To Australia

Besides an extensive theatrical circulation of Canadian motion pictures in Australia, nearly a million and a quarter Australians saw Canadian films during the past fiscal year outside the theatres, according to a National Film Board report from that country. In addition, there was a wide distribution of displays, photomurals, photographs, oil screens and similar visual media on Canadian subjects.

The million and a quarter figure, representing an increase of nearly 81% over the previous year, included more than 90 shows in an NFB theatre at the Sydney Royal Easter Exhibition and Canadian films featured at the Adelaide Exhibition and similar events.

The NFB office at Sydney, which has lately been closed due to budget restrictions, but whose responsibilities will be assumed by other Canadian government offices, there, reported 15,288 bookings of Film Board productions during the year. The Canadian Trade Commissioner's office at Melbourne booked NFB films out 3,345 times. These figures do not include bookings and screenings arranged through Australian organizations and groups such as libraries, State Film Centre, departments of education and others.

It was also reported that 507 NFB films were in circulation in Australia, non-theatrically, most of them available from the office in Sydney and Melbourne.

HISTORY MADE BY SKOURAS HOLD ANNUAL MEET IN TORONTO

History was made in the motion picture industry recently when Spyros P. Skouras, President of Twentieth Century Fox met with his associates in Toronto to hold the company's annual sales meeting and announce their feature schedule plans for the forthcoming year.

The meeting, which marked the first time that a major American company has crossed the border to hold a meeting, was featured by Mr. Skouras' announcement that Twentieth Century Fox, in line with a new Global Production Policy and the Canadian Co-operation Project, would make two full-length motion pictures in Canada during the next year.

The "Global Production Policy" he explained, is a plan whereby increased realism will be introduced to the company's films by shooting the pictures in their actual locale. The plan is already well advanced, Mr. Skouras stated, with movie crews now on location in many parts of the world.

The two Canadian movies, "Canadian Pacific" and "Royal Canadian Mounted Police", are to be made as part of the American movie industry's agreement with the Canadian Government to increase Canadian footage in American-made films as a means of publicizing Canada. Primarily, this is planned to attract American tourists to the Dominion and offset the flow of Canadian dollars into the United States for motion pictures.

In addition to the two Canadian features, a travelogue on the Province of Quebec is to be filmed. In all, Twentieth Century plans to produce thirty "A" features in the coming year, according to Mr. Skouras.

RELIEF MANAGER ARRANGES OUTSTANDING PROMOTION

Vic Howe, assistant manager of the Odeon Danforth, who was relief manager at the Odeon Fairlawn last week, was responsible for that burlesque of the "Miss Toronto Beauty Contest" which drew 22 male entrants for muscle honors in a display that brought screams of approval or otherwise from the mostly-feminine audience. Florence Ferriman, the real "Miss Toronto" was one of the four judges.

YOUTHS ROB THEATRE

A gang of youthful bandits in a panel truck, who have been giving local and Ottawa Valley police a lively chase, raided the Elmdale Theatre and drove away with the safe. The robbers climbed a ladder to the theatre's air-conditioning duct, made their way via the duct to a grille outside the manager's office and gained the corridor inside the theatre. They then smashed open the door to the manager's office and took the heavy safe to the truck waiting in the alley at the rear of the theatre.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

VANCOUVER'S number one "mystery man" drew top honors, for the second year in a row, at the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians, held in Reno, Nevada. Before a record attendance of 350 top-flight magicians, Francis Martineau, of Vancouver, an employee of Famous Players Art Shop, was awarded the trophy for the best all-round performance of magic in a continent-wide competition. Among other delegates from Vancouver were Bill Baillie, F-P Art Shop boss who is also a smart sleight-of-hand operator and a member of the Vancouver Magicians Association.

* * *

The following union representatives will represent B.C. at the IATSE convention at Cleveland next week. Bob Foster and Hank Leslie, Orpheum Theatre, and Lloyd Pantages, Odeon-Hastings, for Projectionists Local 348; Harry Pearson, Orpheum stage hand for Local 118; Dick Jones of the Royal Theatre, Victoria, for Local 168 of the Capital City.

* * *

Vancouver's newest tax on business enterprise, the 11 percent levy on rental values, is fast becoming a major civic headache. It is estimated that it will cost the two moving picture circuits another $55,000 in increased rentals yearly. Over 250 appeals from rental value assessments have been lodged to date. Theatre interests are expected to make a move for relief from this heavy taxation shortly.

* * *

Lyle Kinny, former manager of the Oak Bay Theatre at Victoria, was appointed as assistant manager of the Odeon-Hastings here, succeeding Paul Lambert who resigned. Johnny Bernard of Odeon district office was away to Trail, B.C., acting as relief manager while Jack Armstrong came down to Vancouver for two weeks holidays.

Old time showmanship is not dead, at least not in Vancouver. Roy McLeod of the Vogue Theatre for his showing of "Northwest Stampede", dressed his staff in Indian and cowgirl outfits, and had one girl seated at a downtown spot in costume playing cowboy songs on a phonograph. Frank MacKenzie of the Orpheum had his staff's twin sisters parade the downtown section in old style costume, including bustles, creating plenty of interest for "The Sainted Sisters". Both stunts increased business.

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Oscar Hanson, general manager of J. Arthur Rank 16 mm. in the Dominion, is a local visitor, conferring with his B.C. manager, Sam Lambert, regarding the sales and distribution of educational, religious and other non-theatrical films.

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The "Theatre Under The Stars" at Vancouver's Stanley Park is doing record business this season and having good luck with the weather. Only one performance has been rained out to date. Engagement runs for seven weeks with a fare of musical comedies and light operas. It's a direct opposition to the moving picture houses.

Paramount Lets Starlet Gain Stage Experience

In line with its policy of giving young players stage experience, Paramount today announced the signing of Jean Ruth by the Theatre Guild for the part of Ado Annie in the musical comedy, "Oklahoma". Miss Ruth will join the national company which opens in Canada, August 9th, and then will tour the continent. The company is scheduled to be on the road a year. Miss Ruth recently returned to Hollywood from the national company of the Guild's "I Remember Mama", with which she played two seasons.

Changes in staffs are still in high gear here, both in theatres and film exchanges. Gwen Hewitt, old time W-B cashier, has retired and is succeeded by Mary Wallace, who in turn is replaced by Jackie McDermott as steno. Eleanor Hill is the new billing clerk at W-B. Barbara LaMothe, former W-B steno, is now at 20th Century-Fox.

* * *

Willard Adamson, International Film Distributors manager, is still having tough luck. He is back in the hospital for the third time in the past few months. This time he has a broken hip caused when he slipped and fell. He lost his leg in an operation recently.

* * *

Frank MacKenzie, assistant at the Orpheum, is doing a grand job while his boss, Ivan Ackery, is away on his summer vacation in the British Columbia interior.

* * *

Pacific Mills Ltd., for its Ocean Falls employees, have completed the construction of the 500-seat Crown Theatre, which was included in the plan of expansion and improvement in the company's townsite, 300 miles up-coast from Vancouver. Sound and projection equipment is considered among the best in British Columbia.

* * *

The British Columbia government has taken no action to date on the 3 per cent levy on film rentals, and theatremen are hoping it will never go into effect as the many new taxes are a headache to show business with grosses falling as they have.

* * *

The Kelowna Film Council will be allowed to show moving pictures in the city park during the summer evenings. City Council decided that the movies were appreciated by large audiences last year. National Film Board will also start shows in the Cariboo and if sufficient interest is shown, a self-operating circuit will give monthly showings in the smaller up-country communities now without moving pictures.

THE CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

8th Annual Showmanship Contest

CLOSES AUGUST 31st, 1948

GET YOUR ENTRIES IN NOW!

Fox To Produce 30 "A" Films

(*Continued from Page* 5)

"When My Baby Smiles At Me", in Technicolor, based on the famous Broadway success, "Burlesque", and starring Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. Produced by George Jessel and directed by Walter Lang.

"Unfaithfully Yours", a satiric comedy, written, produced and directed by Preston Sturges. Starring Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell, Rudy Vallee and Barbara Lawrence.

"That Wonderful Urge" (Tentative title), a romantic comedy starring Tyrone Power and Gene Tierney. Produced in Sun Valley, Idaho and Hollywood by Fred Kohlmer and directed by Robert Sinclair.

"Road House", an action-drama co-starring Cornel Wilde, Ida Lupino, Celeste Holm and Richard Widmark. Screenplay written and produced by Edward Chodorov, directed by Jean Negulesco.

"Yellow Sky", a dramatic story of the west, starring Gregory Peck, Anne Baxter and Richard Widmark, based on an original story by W. R. Burnett. Screenplay written and produced by Lamar Trotti, directed by William A. Wellman.

To Pre-release "The Snake Pit"

"The Snake Pit", a Darryl F. Zanuck presentation, starring Olivia De Havilland and also starring Mark Stevens and Leo Genn. Based on the sensational best-selling novel by Mary Jane Ward. Produced by Anatole Litvak and Robert Bassler. Directed by Anatole Litvak.

Currently Before The Cameras

"The Fan", based on the famous Oscar Wilde play "Lady Windermere's Fan", with Jeanne Crain, Madeleine Carroll, George Sanders, and Richard Greene. Produced and directed by Otto Preminger.

Will James' "Sand", an outdoor romance in Technicolor, with Mark Stevens, Coleen Gray and Rory Calhoun. Produced by Robert Bressler and directed by Louis King.

"Chicken Every Sunday", from the best-seller by Rosemary Taylor, with Dan Dailey, Celeste Holm, Alan Young and Colleen Townsend. Produced by William Perlberg and directed by George Seaton of "Miracle on 34th Street" fame.

"Three Wives", a modern comedy-drama starring Linda Darnell, Jeanne Crain and Ann Sothern. Produced by Sol C. Siegel and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

"The Prince of Foxes", from the best-selling historical novel by Samuel Shellabarger. Currently in production in Rome with Tyrone Power and Wanda Hendrix heading the cast. Being produced by Sol C. Siegel and directed by Henry King.

"The Affairs of Adelaide", based on the best-seller "Britannia Mews", by Margery Sharp, co-starring Maureen O'Hara and Dana Andrews. Under production in England by William Perlberg and directed by Jean Negulesco.

Scheduled For Production

"Mr. Belvedere Goes To College", further hilarious adventures of the "baby-sitter" of "Sitting Pretty", with Clifton Webb heading an all-star cast. Produced by Samuel G. Engel, who made "Sitting Pretty".

"Mother Is A Freshman", a romantic comedy produced by Walter Morosco.

In Preparation

"Come To The Stable", an original story by Clare Boothe Luce, based upon a true-to-life story of two Catholic nuns, with an all-star cast. To be produced by Samuel G. Engel. "I Was A Male War Bride", with Cary Grant as star and a major cast, to be produced in Europe by Sol C. Siegel and directed by Howard Hawks. "Royal Canadian Mounted Police", to be produced in Canada with a top cast. "Call Me Mister", based on the musical stage success, to be produced by George Jessel. "Down To The Sea In Ships", to be produced by Louis D. Lighton and directed by Henry Hathaway. "The Beautiful Blonde From Bashful Bend", starring Betty Grable. A comedy written, produced and directed by Preston Sturges. "Sweet Sue", in Technicolor, starring June Haver. "Beyond Five Fathoms", to be directed by Academy Award winner Elia Kazan in Florida. Screenplay by Richard Murphy. "Cloak of Romance", an original story by Ketti Frings, starring Richard Widmark. Produced and directed by Otto Preminger.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE
9th week. "The Mating of Millie" (Col.), with Glenn Ford and Evelyn Keyes.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
"The Street With No Name" (Fox), with Mark Stevens and Richard Widmark.

FAIRLAWN-DANFORTH
"One Night With You" (E-L), with Nino Martini and Patricia Roc.

IMPERIAL
"Northwest Stampede" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Joan Leslie and James Craig.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (SRO), with Cary Grant, Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas.

NORTOWN-VICTORIA
"So Evil My Love" (Para.), with Ray Milland and Ann Todd.

SHEA'S
6th week. "The Fuller Brush Man" (Col.), with Red Skelton and Janet Blair.

UPTOWN
"Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (U-I), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
2nd week. "Naked City" (U-I), with Barry Fitzgerald.

IMPERIAL
"Tarzan And The Mermaids" (R-K-O), with Johnny Weismuller and Brenda Joyce. Also "Arthur Takes Over" (Fox), with Lois Collier and Jerome Cowan.

LOEW'S
"Arch of Triumph" (U-A), with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

PALACE
"To The Ends Of The Earth" (Col.), with Dick Powell and Signe Hasso.

PRINCESS
"To The Victor" (W-B), with Dennis Morgan and Viveca Lindfors.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"The Lost Moment" (U-I), with Robert Cummings and Susan Hayward.

MAYFAIR
"The Iron Curtain" (Fox), with Dana Andrews and Gene Tierney. Also "Turnabout" (Alliance), with Adolphe Menjou and Carol Landis.

STRAND
"Driftwood" (Rep.), with Ruth Warrick and Walter Brennan.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"If Winter Comes" (M-G-M), with Walter Pidgeon and Deborah Kerr.

GARRICK
"Arch of Triumph" (U-A), with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

METROPOLITAN
2nd week. "The Fuller Brush Man" (Col.), with Red Skelton and Janet Blair.

ODEON
"The Unsuspected" (W-B), with Joan Caulfield and Claude Rains.

RIALTO
"Things to Come" (Astral), with Raymond Massey. Also "Man Who Could Work Miracles" (Astral), with Roland Young.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
2nd week. "Sitting Pretty" (Fox), with Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara and Clifton Webb.

GRAND
"So Well Remembered" (E-L), with John Mills and Martha Scott.

PALACE
"I Remember Mama" (R-K-O), with Irene Dunne and Barbara Bel Geddes.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"Winter Meeting" (W-B), with Betty Davis and Janis Paige.

ORPHEUM
"Fury At Furnace Creek" (Fox), with Victor Mature and Coleen Gray.

PARADISE
"Arch of Triumph" (U-A), with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

PLAZA
"Smart Woman" (Mono.), with Brian Aherne and Constance Bennett. Also "Heart of Virginia" (Rep.), with Robert Lowery and Janet Martin.

STRAND
2nd week. "Summer Holiday" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with Mickey Rooney and Gloria DeHaven.

VOGUE
"Northwest Stampede" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Joan Leslie and James Craig.

THE FEUD IS ON---

IT'S ALL IN FUN!!!

and it's all hilarious!!!

Universal-International presents

DONALD O'CONNOR

MA 'n PA KETTLE OF "THE EGG AND I"

MARJORIE MAIN

PERCY KILBRIDE

Together Again!

"Feudin', Fussin' and a-Fightin'"

with

PENNY EDWARDS

JOE BESSER

Screenplay by D. D. BEAUCHAMP from his Collier's Magazine story

Directed by GEORGE SHERMAN

Produced by LEONARD GOLDSTEIN

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PLAY IT NOW!